

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 22 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Trevor Payne (Chair)
Brian Caffarey (Secretary)
Julian Saunders (Treasurer)
John Coulter
Andrew Osborne
Anne Salmon

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Nick Williams.

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 22 AUGUST 2018

2. The minutes were approved subject to noting, in paragraph 21, that the date of the email sent to the Tester family was 25 July, not 30 July.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Forthcoming walks (para 2)

3. A walk had taken place on 2 September in Blean Woods. The next walk was on Sunday 28 October, starting at Seasalter and going to Whitstable and back.

(ii) Website hits (para 3)

4. In the last 30 days 117 users had accessed the site for a total of 125 sessions, looking at 217 pages. The website continued to be updated regularly.

(iii) Social media etc (para 4)

5. A few Facebook postings had been added.

(iv) Proposal for a path from Jubilee Way to the Rec (para 5)

6. John Coulter reported that a new planning application (18/504627) had been submitted to build business units at the former rail contractor's yard off Station Road, with a link through to the Jubilee Way Industrial Estate via Sidings Close. It was noted that this potentially opened up the possibility of deliveries being made to the rugby club via a spur off this route which could be used by vehicles or by just a way to deliver by barrow – which would enable action to be taken to stop vehicles accessing the Rec from Whitstable Road, to the benefit of pedestrians using the Rec. It also opened up the possibility of a more direct route for pedestrians from the Jubilee Way estate to the station. In discussion it was agreed that the Group should comment on the planning application to the effect

that, if the Council was minded to approve the application, steps should be taken to ensure that access was provided to enable deliveries to be made to the rugby club and that a public right of way should be provided to enable people to walk from the estate through to Station Road.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(v) The bund on the Front Brents (para 6)

7. Andrew Osborne said that he had had a further meeting with Environment Agency officials, this time at a more senior level. They had given a number of undertakings about the repair of the Town Green and the prompt re-opening of the (new aluminium) gates but he had not yet received confirmation in writing.

(vi) Planning application in respect of former Oil Depot at Standard Quay (para 7)

8. Anne Salmon said that revised drawings had been submitted in September. As far as the footpath is concerned, the proposals seem very satisfactory, showing a level connection to the Coach Depot and allowing for future connection through to Provender Walk, assuming the Inspector confirms Natural England's proposed route for the England Coast Path along the Creekside at the latter development. Brian Caffarey would write in support of these proposals.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(vii) Expansion of East Kent Recycling Ltd at Oare (para 8)

9. As had been reported in the Faversham News, the revised application for the expansion of the site off Oare Road, Faversham, was not now expected to be considered till January 2019. Anne Salmon said it seemed doubtful if an application – also mentioned in the newspaper article – made by the same company at a site in Aylesham would affect the Oare application.

10. At least two members of the Group had written in support of the application submitted by Kent Law School, on behalf of Uproare, for a Definitive Map Modification Order to add the track to the Definitive Map.

(viii) Affiliation to Ramblers (paras 9-11)

11. As suggested by Ramblers, Brian Caffarey had written to Alan Smith of Swale Footpaths Group about consultation over proposed rights of way changes affecting Faversham and neighbouring parishes. In his reply Alan had welcomed co-operation between the two Groups and had clarified that, in addition to responding on behalf of Swale Footpaths Group for the whole of Swale, he also acted as the Local Footpaths Officer for some parishes in Swale. It was not clear, however, from his letter what the best practical arrangements would be for ensuring consultation. Brian Caffarey would seek further clarification.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

12. As agreed at the previous meeting, renewal of the Group's affiliation to Ramblers would take place shortly.

(ix) Replacement Swing Bridge (para 12)

13. The meeting noted that Paul Carter of KCC would be speaking at a public meeting at St Mary's Church on 29 November. It appeared that the main difficulty lay in persuading Peel Ports to acknowledge its responsibility for ownership of the bridge and ensuring a right of navigation and thus contributing to the cost. The Group would continue to monitor the footpath aspects.

(x) Perry Court (para 13)

14. As agreed at the previous meeting, Brian Caffarey had written to support KCC's Rights of Way team's comments on the footpath aspects.

(xi) Data Protection (para 14)

15. Brian Caffarey said that he had not yet written to those non-members who had expressed support for the Group's stance at the Creekside public inquiry to update them and to give them an opportunity to say if they did not wish to continue to receive correspondence from the Group. He had been hoping for more concrete information about progress with preparatory steps to open the path (see below) but planned to write shortly.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(xii) 'Lost Ways' initiative (paras 19-20)

16. Members of the Executive Committee had promptly carried out three preliminary field surveys which the Ramblers representative had assigned to the Group. An interim progress report indicated that there were over 200 paths which might need to be surveyed in the parts of Kent covered by this initiative but no more surveys had yet been assigned to the Group.

17. A reply had recently been received from KCC to some long-outstanding queries about the status of various paths and alleyways which the Group had surveyed in Faversham town centre. Andrew Osborne, John Coulter and Brian Caffarey would meet to consider this response.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(xiii) Cleve Hill Solar complex (paras 22-23)

18. The next step would be for the firm concerned to submit its Development Control Order application to the Planning Inspectorate. The Group would need to make sure that it was registered as an interested party. Anne Salmon would alert Brian Caffarey.

ACTION: ANNE SALMON

(xiv) Duchy of Cornwall proposal re land south of Selling Road (para 24)

19. There had been a further public meeting but this had not disclosed any new information. It was noted, however, that there appeared to be a clear intention to provide links to footpaths on the other side of the A2.

20. It was agreed that, in the light of the new proposal for another 'garden village' on land near North Street, there should be a future standing agenda item relating to sites being proposed for the revision of Swale BC's Local Plan.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

KCC's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (para 25)

21. As agreed at the previous meeting, Brian Caffarey had submitted comments online in response to KCC's consultation document.

TREASURER'S REPORT

22. Julian Saunders said that the Group now had 77 members. Turning to finances, he expected that the Group would end the calendar year with a balance of income over expenditure of some £150, taking into account the sum spent on public liability insurance, and an overall balance of some £600.

23. Julian said that he was ready to prepare the spreadsheet to enable a claim to be made for gift aid, which he would then submit.

ACTION: JULIAN SAUNDERS

CREEKSIDE PATH AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

24. Andrew Osborne said that he understood that KCC were still awaiting an evidenced claim from the residents for compensation. If any compensation payment could not be agreed, the matter would be referred to the Lands Tribunal. Meanwhile, KCC continued to explore cheaper options for the construction work.

ENGLAND COAST PATH

25. It still remained the position that Natural England hoped that the Inspector considering objections and representations concerning the proposed route from Whitstable to Iwade would report in the autumn.

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE GROUP

26. The meeting considered an application to join the Group but decided, in the light of the Group's Constitution and Rules, that it should be refused since they were not satisfied that the person concerned supported the Group's objects. Brian Caffarey would write to relay the Executive Committee's decision.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS

27. No reply had been received from the Tester family about the Group's proposal to seek a Definitive Map Modification Order in respect of the 'Tram Road' (the continuation of Ham Road leading to Ham Wharf and the section of road leading off Ham Road heading towards the Shipwrights' Arms) in spite of a reminder having been sent. A letter had also been sent on 29 August to the presumed landowner regarding footpaths in Abbeyfields but no reply had so far been received. Brian Caffarey was asked to pursue both matters.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

WALKING AND CYCLING PROVISION IN FAVERSHAM

28. Following discussion at the previous meeting, the Chair had written to Faversham Town Council on 6 September proposing that it should take the lead in promoting a plan to develop practical measures to encourage walking and cycling in the town, although the Group's focus would be on measures to encourage walking. Submission of the letter had coincided with consideration by the Town Council of a consultation document issued by Swale BC, to which the Group had also responded. The Town Clerk had indicated that a substantive response would be sent to the Group but none had been received to date. The Chair would send a reminder. (Note: this was sent on 23 October.)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGM ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018

29. The EC noted that no-one had expressed interest in standing for the Executive Committee, so the proposal to be put to the meeting would be that the present members should be re-elected.

30. The meeting approved the draft agenda/report which had been circulated, to which the Treasurer's report would need to be added.

31. Brian Caffarey had liaised with Andy Hutchinson of KCC's Public Rights of Way team about the presentation which he would be giving after the official business was completed.

LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

32. The Committee noted a revised version of the log of issues raised with, or pursued by, the Group. This would be updated as necessary following the meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33. The following matters were raised:

(i) Proposed part diversion of footpath ZR408 at Selling – a member had alerted the Group to this proposal. Andrew Osborne and Brian Caffarey had made a site visit. The landowner had argued for a diversion on privacy grounds but there seemed to be no significant effect and the proposed diverted route would be less well-defined than the existing route. It was agreed that the Group would write to support the objections which Selling Parish Council had submitted.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(ii) Order relating to field at Champions Court, Newnham – this concerned the use of a field by local residents, and the possibility of applying for Town Green status, and had been raised with the Group by Louise Bareham. Andrew Osborne had offered to provide advice if required.

(iii) Proposal by KCC to charge for disposal of certain types of non-household waste (e.g.rubble, soil, hardcore, plasterboard)

Andrew Osborne drew attention to a consultation exercise being carried out by KCC about a proposal to charge for the disposal of certain types of non-household waste. While the difficulties confronting KCC were recognised, including abuse by commercial operators and 'cross-border' tipping by residents of neighbouring county councils where charging already took place, the Group felt that this proposal would be bound to encourage even more fly-tipping, which often affected footpaths, especially where they joined highways. Brian Caffarey was asked to submit the Group's objections by the deadline of 1 November.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

NEXT MEETING

34. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Monday 28 January 2019 at 130 Athelstan Road.

27 October 2018